



## **APPENDIX 13-3**

**VIEWPOINT (PHOTOMONTAGE)  
ASSESSMENT TABLES**

1.

# PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 17 No. photomontage viewpoints presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* (hereafter, Photomontage Booklet). This appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the Photomontage Booklet. The table below provides location information about the 17 No. viewpoints assessed.

Table 1-1 Photomontage Viewpoints

| VP No | Description   | Grid Ref.              |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| 01    | View from the Burren on the L5096 local road in the townland of Leana. Located approximately 18.9km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T5).                 | E 526,480<br>N 693,629 |
| 02    | View from the N85 national road in the settlement of Inagh. Located approximately 8.1km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T5)                                     | E 520,969<br>N 681,332 |
| 03    | View from the R460 regional road in the townland of Cloonanaha. Located approximately 1.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).                                | E 514,281<br>N 680,446 |
| 04    | View from the CCDP SR-15 on the R474 regional road in the townland of Doonsallagh East. Located approximately 3.05km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).  | E 509,950<br>N 676,560 |
| 05    | View from the L2094 local road in the settlement of Mullagh. Located approximately 9.1km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).                              | E 504,818<br>N 672,986 |
| 06    | View from the Doonbeg Golf Course, near Doughmore Beach, in the townland of Carrowmore. Located approximately 16.7km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).  | E 499,142<br>N 667,960 |
| 07    | View from the CCDP SR-1 on the N67 national road in the settlement of Quilty. Located approximately 10.4km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).            | E 501,952<br>N 675,131 |
| 08    | View from the CCDP SR-15 on the N67 national road in the townland of Annagh. Located approximately 8.1km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).              | E 503,677<br>N 677,080 |
| 09    | View from the R474 regional road in the settlement of Mullagh. Located approximately 5.56km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).                           | E 505,935<br>N 678,905 |
| 10    | View from the L2118 local road in the townland of Tooreen. Located approximately 1.44km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).                                    | E 510,084<br>N 680,361 |
| 11    | View from the Doolin Cycle Hub Loop 2 on the N67 national road in the settlement of Ennistimon. Located approximately 8km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2). | E 513,122<br>N 688,819 |

| VP No | Description  | Grid Ref.              |
|-------|--|------------------------|
| 12    | View from the CCDP SR-1 on the R478 regional road in the townland of Ballyellery. Located approximately 9.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).                                | E 509,013<br>N 689,426 |
| 13    | View from Clahane Viewpoint on the L5136 local road in the townland of Cloghaudine. Located approximately 10.2km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).                             | E 504,441<br>N 687,831 |
| 14    | View from the CCDP SR-1 on the R478 regional road in the townland of Lislorkan North, near the Cliffs of Moher. Located approximately 13.8km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). | E 504,437<br>N 692,384 |
| 15    | View from the R476 regional road in the settlement of Lisdoonvarna. Located approximately 17.4km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).   | E 513,474<br>N 698,212 |
| 16    | View from the R460 regional road in the townland of Doonsallagh East bordering the townland of Cloghaun Beg. Located approximately 1.29km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).    | E 511,092<br>N 677,977 |
| 17    | View from the R460 regional road in the townland of Boolynamiscaun. Located approximately 1.3km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T6).  | E 513,648<br>N 679,453 |

1.1

## Viewpoint Selection

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including a review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photographs taken at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area as well as a GNSS GPS survey of the viewpoint. Based on a desktop review, multiple viewpoints were identified as having potential views of the Proposed Turbines. In reality, site visits determined that many of these locations had views that were visually screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process, i.e. the viewpoints had little or no visibility towards the Proposed Turbines.

## Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

Visual impact assessments were conducted for individual viewpoints and are reported in the tables below following the ‘Assessing Visual Effects’ methodology set out in Section 1.8 of Appendix 13-1 – *LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other existing, permitted and /or proposed wind farms located in the LVIA Study Area and the Proposed Project are included in the assessment tables below.

### Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 13.7.3.6 of Chapter 13, the assessment of cumulative visual effects considers all other existing, permitted, and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area and their interactions with the Proposed Project. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this document are based on the photomontages in the Photomontage Booklet and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. The potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the ‘Magnitude of Change’ row in each impact assessment table and is considered in the ‘Residual Visual Effect’ determination given for each viewpoint.

## 1.2 Viewpoint Assessment Tables

### 1.2.1 Viewpoint 01 - The Burren

| Viewpoint 01 – The Burren                 |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View southeast from the L-5096 local road in the townland of Leana.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on County Clare Scenic Route 6 and The Burren Way way-marked hiking trail.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the road next to the Parknabinnia historical monument, 2.3 km south-west of The Burren National Park.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 18.9 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine, T5.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 526,480; N 696,629.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark – <b>Very High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ LCA 01: The Burren Uplands – <b>High</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CCDP Scenic Route 6 – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ The Burren Way - <b>High</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Description of 'Exiting View'</b>      | <p>The image shows an open and expansive view of an undulating landscape from an elevated position in close proximity to The Burren National Park. The landscape immediately surrounding this viewpoint is relatively barren, landcover comprises scrub, gorse and small trees. A field of agricultural pasture is seen in the foreground bordered by low drystone walls and gorse hedges, the Parknabinnia Wedge Tomb is seen in the foreground to the right of the image.</p> <p>In the middle distance a large tract of coniferous forestry is seen to the left of the image, elsewhere the landscape comprises a mix of agricultural land, clusters of deciduous trees and small settlements or dwellings in the lower valley. Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry are large, gently sloping hills forming the background of the view.</p> <p>Approximately 18 no. turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible within the background of this view. At this distance (&gt;19km) they are visible as very small features within the landscape.</p> |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>The full extent of all Proposed Turbines are visible within the photomontage. The Proposed Turbines are seen as a coherent cluster upon the elevated site of Slieveacurry. At this distance (&gt;18 km), the Proposed Turbines are seen as very small features within the extensive panoramic view available from this elevated location and they consume a very small spatial extent of the landscape, enabling them to be effectively absorbed within the view. From this perspective, there is some visual stacking between proposed turbines T8 &amp; T6 and T5 &amp; T7, any visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance. The proposed met mast is located behind proposed turbine T6 and will not be discernible from this viewpoint.</p>  |

| Viewpoint 01 – The Burren   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>   | <p>The Proposed Turbines will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. When viewed alongside the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, the siting of the Proposed Turbines at a similar elevation on an opposing ridge enables it to be seen as a visual counterbalance within the landscape. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be visible to the right of the Proposed Turbines at a similar elevation. Similar to the Slievecallan Wind Farm, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm is sited on an opposing ridgeline, with a saddle of low ground located between them. The Proposed Turbines would be sited between the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm, creating a visual connectivity of wind farm developments in this small portion of the view.</p> <p>The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below</p> |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <p><b>Very High:</b> Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is likely to be upon the landscape or scenic view. This is a relatively remote and isolated viewpoint location and there will not be a large volume of visual receptors passing this point, however, it is representative of views from the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.</p>   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <p><b>Negligible:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen as very small features in the distant background, at a large set-back distance from the viewpoint, comprising a very small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.</p>   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <p><b>Very High X Negligible = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br/><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i></p>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ At this distance the Proposed Turbines are visible as a small, neat and coherent cluster of turbines, which are effectively absorbed within this wide and expansive view.</li> <li>➤ This is one of the closest points within The Burren where there is a clear and open view of the Proposed Turbines, most other locations with visibility will be at a distance greater than this where visual effects will be significantly mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ At this distance a visual receptor is required to actively search the landscape in order to identify turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm. They are only just distinguishable in this photomontage which displays optimal weather and visibility.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines do not significantly impact the key scenic landscape and visual sensitivities of the Burren National Park.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br><i>(incl. mitigating factors)</i>                             | <p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br/><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences”</i></p>   |

1.2.2

## Viewpoint 02 - Inagh

| Viewpoint 02 – Inagh                      |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View west from the N85 national road from the village of Inagh.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 8.1 km east of the nearest proposed turbine, T5.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 520,969, N 681,332.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | ➤ LCA 16: Cullenagh River Farmlands - <b>Medium</b>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | Settlement of Inagh - <b>Medium</b><br>N85 National Road - <b>Low</b>  |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>The foreground of this view comprises the streetscape of Inagh village as the N85 national road enters from the south-east. Across the road from the viewpoint is 'The Good House' restaurant, public house and car parking amenities, as well as a signpost directly across the road from the viewpoint. The left of the image comprises a semi-rural landscape with mixed trees, bushes and scrub interspersed with several mixed-use buildings. The high elevations of Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry are visible in the background of the image just above the treeline and buildings of the middle-ground.</p> <p>Turbine blades of one turbine and one turbine tower of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible above the horizon to the left of centre.</p>  |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All Proposed Turbines are visible in the photomontage. Proposed turbines T7 and T8 are partially screened by intervening vegetation in the middle ground and only blade tips of proposed turbines T1 and T2 are visible due to screening from the intervening vegetation. The horizontal extent of the Proposed Turbines seen within the landscape is small. A small amount of visual stacking occurs between proposed turbines T1 and T2 from this viewpoint location. At this distance the turbines are visible as small background features above the horizon of the landscape, and they do not obstruct any landscape views. The proposed met mast is just discernible as a discrete vertical line between proposed turbines T4 and T9.</p>   |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Project will be viewed in conjunction with 2 no. of the existing Slievecallan turbines and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. The two developments are seen to be of similar scale. The separation between the two wind farms across a saddle of slightly lower ground clearly defines the two wind farms as separate visual units.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be sited to the right of the Proposed Turbines, where they may be visible from elevated vantage points within the area. The proposed Illaunbaun turbines are primarily visually screened by the built form of Inagh. Overall, while the Proposed Turbines increase the spatial extent of turbines visible in the landscape. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p> |

| Viewpoint 02 – Inagh  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>Medium:</b> Includes visual receptors such as residents of Inagh, traffic travelling along the N85 national road.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The built form of the Inagh streetscape significantly screens visibility of the Proposed Turbines in other areas of the village.</li> <li>➤ Due to screening from local topography and roadside vegetation there is very limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines from other areas of the N85, both on the approach to Inagh from Ennis and also on the route between Inagh and Ennistimon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are seen as small and suitably scaled features in the background of the view and visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines comprises a small horizontal extent within the view and does not obstruct landscape views from this location.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                    | <b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>  |

1.2.3

## Viewpoint 03 - Cloonanaha

| Viewpoint 03 - Cloonanaha                 |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View west from the R460 regional road in the townland of Cloonanaha.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located adjacent to Cloonanaha National School and in close proximity to the local church.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 1.4 km east of the nearest proposed turbine, T5;</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 514,281, N 680,446;</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | ➤ LCA 17: Sliabh Callan Uplands – <b>Low</b>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residents – <b>High</b>;</li> <li>➤ Visual Receptors attending the church and school – <b>Medium</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>This image shows a view along the R460 regional road towards a local church in the townland of Cloonanaha. The foreground comprises agricultural fields bordered by mature hedgerows and a cluster of deciduous trees surrounding the church. Cloonanaha National School is located to the left of the image, immediately adjacent to the viewpoint. Several telecommunication poles and netting uprights from the nearby GAA pitch are seen on both sides of the road in close proximity to this viewpoint, these are prominent, man-made, vertical features in the image. There are open views of agricultural fields in the middle distance bordered by the occasional cluster of deciduous woodland. The topography rises in the right of the image towards Slieveacurry. Tracts of coniferous forestry are seen across the steeper elevations of the hill; the crest comprises of moorland landcover.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p> |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All Proposed Turbines will be visible from this perspective, although proposed turbines T1, T3, T4 and T9 are partially screened by the intervening topography. T5 is located closest to this viewpoint and is therefore seen as a relatively prominent feature of the landscape. All turbine components are visible above the horizon in this photomontage and they do not obstruct any landscape views from this viewpoint. The proposed met mast is visible as a short vertical line between T4 and T9.</p>   |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm is to be located beyond Slieveacurry, behind proposed turbine T2. Only the tip of one blade of the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm is visible to the right of T2. Overall, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm would have no bearing on the overall cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm would be visible to the left of this field of view shown in the photomontage. This extends the horizontal visual extent of wind turbines where the Proposed Turbines will be viewed in succession. The turbines are viewed along the ridgelines and do not interrupt the far ranging views over the landscape to the right of this field of view shown in the photomontage.</p>  |

| Viewpoint 03 - Cloonanaha   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> Sensitivity is deemed to be high on account of local residents living in close proximity to the Proposed Turbines. The school and church are both receptors of medium to high sensitivity. Other landscape and visual receptors in the immediate vicinity of this viewpoint are deemed to be of low sensitivity.   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Moderate:</b> Turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a large horizontal extent of views, typically comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are visually coherent, seen as a neat cluster within a landscape designated as strategic for wind energy development.</li> <li>➤ There is partial screening of the turbines by topography and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon, mitigating potential visual clutter.</li> <li>➤ All Proposed Turbines of the Proposed Project are sited in a “Strategic Area” for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines do not obstruct any landscape views from this perspective.</li> <li>➤ Screening from both vegetation and sides of the steep valley intermittently visually screens the Proposed Turbines from along sections of the R460 as it heads west from this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the &gt;500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance set out in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019);</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                    | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i>  |

1.2.4

## Viewpoint 04 – Doonsallagh East

| Viewpoint 04 – Doonsallagh East           |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View northeast from the R474 regional road in the townland of Doonsallagh East.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located along the designated CCDP Scenic Route 15.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 3.05 km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine, T7.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 509,950; N 676,560.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 17: Slia bh Callan Uplands - <b>Low</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CCDP Scenic Route 15 – <b>High</b>;</li> <li>➤ Residents – <b>Medium/High</b>;</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>The image shows an open agricultural landscape, with a view looking north from the R474 and CCDP Scenic Route 15. A roadside settlement, dry stone walls and a country track are shown in the foreground of the image. Open fields of pasture, scrub and moorland comprise the middle distance as the land rises steeply to a hilltop ridge in the centre of the image. Several dwellings and farmsteads are seen across the relatively undulating landscape as well as telecommunication and electricity poles. A ridge of high ground in the centre of the image (Slieveacurry Hill) has a large tract of coniferous forestry which runs across the skyline of the highest elevation. Coniferous forestry is also seen to the right of the image, where the land rises to the peak of Slieve Callan.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible in the right of the 90-degree field of view.</p>  |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>3 no. Proposed Turbines are fully visible from this viewpoint. Intervening landform and coniferous forestry partially screens some of the Proposed Turbines from view. Only blade tips of turbine T1 are visible, and the tower and lower blade arcs of proposed turbine T5 will be screened from view. The lower tower of proposed turbines T3, T4 and T9 are screened from view while almost all components of proposed turbines T6, T7 and T8 will be visible. Proposed turbine T2 is entirely screened from view by the intervening topography. The proposed met mast is viewed as a short, thin, vertical line amongst the cluster of turbines.</p>   |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>While not seen in the 53.5 degree proposed view, the Proposed Turbines would be viewed in conjunction with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, which is seen to the right of the 90 degree proposed view. There is no visual overlap between the two wind energy developments from this perspective, therefore the Proposed Turbines increases the horizontal extent of turbines seen within the landscape. Both developments are seen to be of similar scale and design specification, they frame the valley of lower ground located between them (right of centre), the Proposed Turbines will be seen as a visual counterbalance to the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm.</p> <p>The existing Cahermurphy turbines are viewed in the opposing direction from this Viewpoint, therefore in combination successional cumulative effects occur with the Proposed Turbines. These turbines would be visible</p> |

| Viewpoint 04 – Doonsallagh East   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>south of this viewpoint, where they would be viewed within the Sliabh Callan Uplands landscape 6.8km from this location. The proposed Cahermurphy II turbines would be visible south of this viewpoint beside the existing Cahermurphy turbines in a potential future receiving environment. These developments are well set back in the distant south.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm is located to the left of the Proposed Turbines, as shown by the wireline view. These are visually screened by the house and bush in the foreground. These would be set back at a slightly further distance from this viewpoint, beyond the ridgeline.</p> <p>The cumulative visual effects that arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>   |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its location on the designated Scenic Route 15, and the local residences.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Moderate:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen of a moderate scale but clearly set back from the viewpoint, comprising a moderate portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High, due to the designation of the Scenic Route, the valuable scenic amenity contributing to the designation of this scenic route is the views across the coastal plain to the west and is not attributable to the view shown in this view or photomontage.</li> <li>➤ A proportion of the Proposed Turbines will be visually screened by intervening landform.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines do not obstruct any views of the wider landscape, and occupy relatively small horizontal and vertical extent.</li> <li>➤ All Proposed Turbines are sited in a “Strategic Area” for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ Siting of the Proposed Turbines as a neat cluster upon the elevated ridge enables it to be effectively absorbed within the open landscape.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br><i>(incl. mitigating factors)</i>                             | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |

1.2.5

## Viewpoint 05 - Mullagh

| Viewpoint 05 - Mullagh                    |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View north from the Finuremore Park Road in the settlement of Mullagh.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 9.1 km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 504,818; N 672,986</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | ➤ LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland - <b>High</b>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | ➤ Mullagh - <b>Medium</b>  |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>The view shows the undulating agricultural landscape north of Mullagh. The landcover comprises a patchwork of agricultural farmland lined with hedgerows, scrub and small clusters of deciduous trees. This is a settled landscape, and many residential dwellings are visible at middle-distance and long-distance views, as well as several telegraph poles which are other vertical man-made features of the landscape. The high elevations of Slieveacurry and Slieve Callan are prominent landforms in the background of this view.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is seen scattered around the coniferous forestry surrounding the peak of Slieve Callan.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All Proposed Turbines are visible in the distant background, on the high ground of the Slieveacurry plateau. As a group, the Proposed Turbines are seen as a neat and organised array of turbines. There is slight blade overlap between proposed turbines T2 and T4. There is some visual stacking between proposed turbines T5 and T7. Visual confusion attributed to overlapping blades is mitigated by the slight differences in nacelle heights and that all turbine components are viewed above the horizon and not a backdrop of other landscape elements. The proposed met mast is not discernible at this distance.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Project will be viewed in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm. The Proposed Turbines are sited on an opposing ridge and at a similar elevation, enabling them to be seen as a visual counterbalance within the landscape. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments, mitigating any cumulative visual effects potentially arising from the minor differences in turbine height and specifications of turbine envelope. In combination cumulative effects will occur with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm.</p> <p>The existing Cahermurphy I turbines are viewed in the opposing direction to the southeast of this viewpoint, in the opposing direction. The proposed Cahermurphy II turbines would be visible southeast of this viewpoint, beside the existing Cahermurphy turbines in a potential future receiving environment. Other existing developments, such as the Booltiagh, Booltiagh Extension, Boolynagleragh, and Glenmore Wind Farms would be visible to the east, setback within the Sliabh Callan Uplands landscape. In succession</p> |

| Viewpoint 05 - Mullagh  |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>cumulative visual effects will occur with these existing wind farms, where the Proposed Project would increase the extent of wind developments visible within the landscape.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm would be viewed in combination with the Proposed Turbines. The proposed Illaunbaun turbines would be seen along the ridgeline to the left of the Proposed Turbines, to the left of the view.</p> <p>Overall, while the Proposed Turbines increase the spatial extent of turbines visible within the landscape, they assimilate well within the view as they comprise of a coherent layout. The cumulative visual effects that rise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>  |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint has been classified as a medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of its proximity to the settlement of Mullagh.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, they comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”</i>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines comprise a very small spatial extent of the expansive landscape views from this location, they are seen in the background of the view above the horizon and do not obstruct views of any other landscape elements.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative visual effects, the three groups of turbines have the same height profile within the landscape from this perspective. Collectively, they correspond sympathetically to the landforms and are effectively accommodated with appropriate separation across the three upland areas, separated by small valleys and gulleys All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ There is very limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines from within the settlement of Mullagh itself.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                    | <b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”</i>  |

1.2.6

## Viewpoint 06 - Doughmore

| Viewpoint 06 – Doughmore                  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View northeast from Doonbeg Golf Course adjacent to Doughmore Beach in the townland of Carrowmore.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 16.7 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 499,142; N 667,960.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visitors to Doughmore Beach – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Wild Atlantic Way – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ Doonbeg Golf Course – <b>Low</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>The image is an expansive long-ranging view captured from an elevated vantage point overlooking the Doonbeg Golf Course and landscape beyond. The image shows a view across a relatively flat, rural and sparsely populated landscape. Landforms of the Slieve Callan uplands are visible in the distant background of the view.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible in the centre background of the image. The existing Cahermurphy, Glenmore, Booltiagh, and Letteragh Wind Farms are visible in the right background of the image.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All 9 no. Proposed Turbines are visible in the distant background as a small, neat and coherent cluster of turbines upon the horizon. The towers of proposed turbines T1, T2 and T5 are partially screened by the landform and their nacelles are seen to be slightly lower than the other turbines. There is minor blade overlap between proposed turbines T5 and T7, and visual stacking between proposed turbines T6 and T8. Although the proposed met mast is theoretically visible, it is not discernible with the naked eye.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>This location shows unobstructed and open views towards a landscape (Sliabh Callan Uplands LCA) designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council, therefore many other wind energy developments are visible in conjunction with the Proposed Project. The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is seen in to the right of the Proposed Turbines, upon the adjacent landform of Slieve Callan. In the 90-degree field of view, the existing Cahermurphy and Glenmore Wind Farms are seen to the right of the right of the proposed view within the elevated uplands. The proposed Cahermurphy II turbines would be visible to the east of this viewpoint, sited along the elevated landform in front of the existing Cahermurphy turbines in a future receiving environment.</p> <p>As indicated in the wireline, the existing Booltiagh Wind Farm and the existing Letteragh Wind Farm are sited behind the intervening landform, beyond the existing Cahermurphy Wind Farm, where they are primarily visually screened.</p> |

| Viewpoint 06 – Doughmore  |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be visible to the left of the Proposed Turbines, along the adjacent ridgeline. The Proposed Project will be seen as a visual counterbalance to the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm upon the opposing ridges.</p> <p>From this viewpoint, the Proposed Project increases the extent of turbines in the landscape. Due to the separation distance from other developments and differences in scale, it is clearly defined as an independent wind energy development. Many wind farms are currently visible from this viewpoint; the addition of the Proposed Turbines will not significantly alter the character of views from the current baseline.</p>  |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> Considering the scenic amenity of Doughmore Beach and Doughmore bay, and the expansive views available from this viewpoint, the sensitivity of this viewpoint is deemed to be high.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This viewpoint does not represent any designated scenic view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are set-back at a sufficient distance from this viewpoint and will not impact the high sensitivity landscape designations of County Clare (‘Heritage Landscapes’).</li> <li>➤ The scenic qualities from this area are directed along the Atlantic Coast, in the opposing field of view. The Proposed Wind Farm Site is sited further inland to the east, within a landscape of lower sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed as a neat and organised cluster comprising a very small spatial extent of this expansive landscape view, therefore, it is effectively absorbed within the landscape.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are sited in a mountain moorland landscape of large scale capable of effectively accommodating multiple wind energy developments, a landscape where wind energy is well-established.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                    | <b>Slight (EPA 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences”.</i>  |

1.2.7

## Viewpoint 07 - Quilty

| Viewpoint 07 - Quilty                     |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View northeast from the N67 national road from the settlement of Quilty.</li> <li>➤ The view is located on the designated CCDP Scenic Route 1, approximately 10.3 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 501,952 N 675,131;</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | CCDP Scenic Route 1 - <b>High</b><br>Quilty - <b>Medium</b>  |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>The image shows an open, long-ranging view from the N67 national road as it exits Quilty to the north. Residential dwellings and low walls are seen in the right of the foreground. Most of the image shows a flat agricultural landscape comprising fields bordered by low hedgerows and scrub. Several residential dwellings and farm steadings are scattered across the rolling agricultural landscape. The topography of the Slieve Callan uplands comprise the background of this image.</p> <p>Many turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible as very small features in the background of this image.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | All of the Proposed Turbines are visible as small elements along the Slievecurry ridgeline in the background of the proposed view. All Proposed Turbines are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any landscape views. The proposed met mast is not discernible at this distance.   |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Project will be seen in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. The Proposed Turbines are sited on elevated land adjacent to the Slievecallan Wind Farm. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments, mitigating any cumulative visual effects potentially arising from the minor differences in turbine height evident from this distance and perspective.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be viewed in combination to the left of the Proposed Turbines, on the adjacent ridgeline to the left of the view (west).</p> <p>The intervening landform and built environment visually screen views further east from this viewpoint. Other existing windfarms, such as Glenmore and Cahermurphy, as well as the proposed Cahermurphy II turbines, would be seen to the east for receptors travelling further north along the N67 national road, or on the east outskirts of Quilty. The Proposed Turbines would be viewed sequentially with these cumulative turbines.</p> <p>The Proposed Turbines add to the extent of turbines visible from this viewpoint. However, the expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the Proposed Turbines with other wind energy</p> |

| Viewpoint 07 - Quilty   |   |
|---|---|
|   | developments. The receiving landscape is capable of effectively absorbing multiple wind energy developments. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.  |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of its location on the designated Scenic Route 1, and location within the Heritage Landscape.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1) | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines comprise a very small spatial extent of the expansive landscape views from this location, they are seen in the background of the view above the horizon and do not obstruct views of any other landscape elements.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative visual effects, the three groups of turbines have the same height profile within the landscape from this perspective. Collectively, they correspond sympathetically to the landforms and are effectively accommodated with appropriate separation across the three upland areas, separated by small valleys and gulleys. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ Due to visual screening from the streetscape of Quilty Village, actual visibility of the Proposed Turbines is very limited from within the village itself.</li> <li>➤ The scenic qualities from this area are directed along the Atlantic Coast, in the opposing field of view. The Proposed Project is sited further inland to the north, within a landscape of lower sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are set-back at a sufficient distance from this viewpoint and will not impact the key characteristics and scenic sensitivities of the high sensitivity County Clare Heritage Landscape designation experienced from CCDP Scenic Route 1.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are sited in a mountain moorland landscape of large scale capable of effectively accommodating multiple wind energy developments, a landscape where wind energy is well-established.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b> (incl. mitigating factors)                             | <b>Slight (EPA 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”.</i>   |

1.2.8

## Viewpoint 08 – Spanish Point

| Viewpoint 08 – Spanish Point              |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View northeast from the N67 national road in the townland of Annagh.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the CCDP Scenic Route 1 at Spanish Point.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 8 km west-south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 503,677 N 677,080</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CCDP Scenic Route 1– <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Spanish Point Tourism &amp; Recreational Amenities - <b>High</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>     | <p>The image shows a relatively flat agricultural landscape with a clear view towards the high elevations of Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry which comprise the background. The foreground shows the N67 road which crosses the Glendine River to the left of the image just before the junction to Spanish Point. A caravan park is visible to the left in the middle distance, many residential dwellings are scattered throughout the landscape. Agricultural fields bordered by low hedgerows are the primary landcover.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is seen as small features on the higher ground in the background of the image.</p>  |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All turbines of the Proposed Project are visible as a neat and coherent cluster upon the high ridge of the Slieveacurry. Most turbine components are visible above the horizon and there is adequate spacing amongst the turbines. The Proposed Turbines are appropriately scaled; at this distance the turbines are seen as small elements in the background of the landscape. The proposed met mast is barely discernible adjacent to proposed turbine T9.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be seen in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments, mitigating any cumulative visual effects potentially arising from the minor differences in turbine height.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be viewed in combination to the left of the Proposed Turbines, along the adjacent ridgeline.</p> <p>The intervening landform and built environment partially screen views further east and south-east from this viewpoint. Other existing windfarms, such as Glenmore, Boolnagleragh, Letteragh, Booltiagh, and Cahermurphy, as well as the proposed Cahermurphy II turbines, would be seen to the east for southbound receptors travelling on CCDP Scenic Route 1 from locations to the north of the viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines would be viewed sequentially with these cumulative turbines.</p> |

| Viewpoint 08 – Spanish Point  |  |
|---|--|
|   | The Proposed Turbines add to the extent of turbines visible from this viewpoint. However, the expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the Proposed Turbines with other wind energy developments. The receiving landscape is capable of effectively absorbing multiple wind energy developments. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.  |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> Includes travellers on County Clare Scenic Route 1, and the Wild Atlantic Way. This location also represents open views from Spanish Point where most visitors to the area are likely to be there in a recreational capacity.   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed as a coherent array above the horizon along the Slieveacurry ridgeline in the background of the landscape and does not obscure any views of the Heritage Landscape comprising the coastline which is seen to the west from Scenic Route 1, in another field of view than is shown in the photomontage.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative visual effects, the three groups of turbines have the similar height profile within the landscape from this perspective. Collectively, they correspond sympathetically to the landforms and are effectively accommodated with appropriate separation across the three upland areas, separated by small valleys and gulleys. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The scenic qualities from this area are directed along the Atlantic Coast, in the opposing field of view. The Proposed Project is sited further inland to the east, within a landscape of lower sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are sited in a mountain moorland landscape of large scale capable of effectively accommodating multiple wind energy developments, a landscape where wind energy is well-established.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of Proposed Turbines from the Spanish Point coastal amenities (e.g. Spanish Point Beach) is significantly mitigated by screening from localised topography such as inland dunes and also properties lining the road. There are occasional intermittent views of the Proposed Turbines along the R482 by Spanish Point Beach (the viewpoint location used in this instance provides un-obstructed and open views of the Proposed Turbines, more so than these other locations) although views are not likely to be directed inland from these locations.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br><b>(incl. mitigating factors)</b>                             | <b>Slight (EPA 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”.</i>  |

1.2.9

## Viewpoint 09 – Miltown Malbay

| Viewpoint 09 – Miltown Malbay             |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View east from the R474 regional road on the east outskirts of Miltown Malbay.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on CCDP Scenic Route 15, located approximately 5.5 km west of the nearest turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 505,935; N 678,905</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | ➤ LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland – <b>High</b>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CCDP Scenic Route 15 – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Miltown Malbay – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>     | <p>This view is directed to the north-east across the R474 regional road as it exits Miltown Malbay. The foreground comprises flat agricultural fields bordered by low hedgerows, several residential dwellings and agricultural buildings are scattered amongst middle distance views and along the road to the east (right of image). The elevated moorland of Slieveacurry is seen to the centre/right of the image, the hilltop of Slieve Callan is seen in the background to the right of the image, partially covered in coniferous forestry.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible to the right of the image.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>The Proposed Turbines are visible from this location as a linear array across the Slieveacurry ridge. The towers and lower blade arcs of proposed turbines T1 and T2 are partially screened from view. From this perspective, proposed turbines T4 and T5 will have blade overlap and slight visual stacking, visual effects from stacking and blade overlap are softened by the slightly varying turbine heights and distance from the viewpoint. All turbine components are visible above the horizon.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be viewed in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, where the addition of the Proposed Turbines increases the spatial extent of wind turbines visible in the landscape. The difference in turbine scale clearly defines each as a separate renewable energy development, however, similarity in siting on adjacent ridges and similar spacing and layout enables both developments to be seen as a relatively contiguous array across the landscape.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm would be visible to the left of the Proposed Turbines. These are viewed at a similar set-back distance and similar arrangement, beyond the ridgeline.</p> <p>Overall, while the Proposed Turbines increase the spatial extent of turbines visible in the landscape. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p> |

| Viewpoint 09 – Miltown Malbay  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Sensitivity</b>   | <b>High:</b> This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the CCDP Scenic Route 15. This viewpoint also represents the settlement of Miltown Malbay.   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>  | <b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All turbine components are seen above the horizon in the background of the view and do not obstruct views of the landscape, with elevated siting ensuring the Proposed Turbines are visually separate from the complexity of lower ground.</li> <li>➤ All turbines of the Proposed Project are sited in a “Strategic Area” for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative visual effects, the three groups of turbines have similar height profile relative to the landscape from this perspective. Collectively, they correspond sympathetically to the landforms and are effectively accommodated with appropriate separation across the three upland areas, separated by small valleys and gulleys All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ Views in the direction of the Proposed Turbines from within the settlement of Miltown Malbay itself are likely to be limited due to the built environment.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                   | <b>Slight (EPA 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”.</i>  |

1.2.10

## Viewpoint 10 - Tooreen

| Viewpoint 10 – Tooreen.                   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View east from the Ballard Road in the townland of Tooreen.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1.4 km west of the nearest turbine (T3), and representative of local residential receptors located in close proximity to the Proposed Turbines.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 510,084, N 680,361.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | ➤ LCA 17: Sliabh Callan Uplands – <b>Low</b>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | ➤ Residents in close proximity - <b>High</b>   |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>There are open views of the Slieveacurry ridgeline, which rises in the background of the view. The landcover along this ridgeline comprises moorland type and a treeline of a coniferous plantation extending across the brow of the hill to the right of the image. The foreground comprises agricultural fields bordered by wire fences, low hedges and scrub. Small clusters of mature coniferous trees are interspersed across the landscape in front of the site, as well as a farm stead and other agricultural buildings. The peak of Slieve Callan can be seen in the background and centre of the image beyond the Slieveacurry ridgeline.</p> <p>Turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible across the background, to the centre and the right of the image.</p>                     |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All turbines of the Proposed Project are visible from this viewpoint. At such close proximity the Proposed Turbines are seen as large and prominent features within the landscape, particularly proposed turbines T3 and T7, with T3 only located 1.4 km from this location. There is no visual stacking, from this perspective and the Proposed Turbines are viewed as an orderly array with adequate spacing between turbines. The proposed met mast is sited to right of proposed turbine T5, where it is predominantly visually screened by intervening topography and not visible. The open nature of the elevated moorland enables the Proposed Turbines to be sufficiently absorbed by the landscape.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be viewed in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, increasing the overall extent of wind energy developments seen within the view. The difference in location and scale of the Proposed Turbines (closer proximity) and the existing turbines (at a greater set-back distance from this location) defines them as separate entities from this perspective, where the Proposed Turbines appear larger in scale than the existing turbines.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be located to the north of this viewpoint, sited in closer proximity than the Proposed Project. In-succession views will occur from locations along this local road, where turbines may be viewed either side of the road.</p> |

| Viewpoint 10 – Tooreen.   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> This viewpoint has been assigned a high sensitivity on account of the residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Turbines.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Moderate:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen of large scale comprising a large horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the &gt;500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance set out in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG 2019);</li> <li>➤ All turbines of the Proposed Project are sited in a “Strategic Area” for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are set back on the far side of the small upland valley providing a sense of separation from receptors represented by this viewpoint on the near side of this valley.</li> <li>➤ This is a medium-range view of a rural working landscape and it is not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity. The Proposed Turbines do not obstruct or significantly impact the open and long ranging views of high scenic quality across the lowlands to the south from receptors in this area.</li> <li>➤ There is no visual stacking, very minimal blade overlap and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon; mitigating any visual confusion occurring at this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The large scale and open character of the landscape is one which can absorb the turbine layout, the Proposed Turbines blades and hubs do not obstruct views of any notable background landscape.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Project appears in a landscape that is relatively simple in terms of land cover and composition which can effectively accommodate the Proposed Turbines.</li> <li>➤ The potential for Significant residual visual impacts arising in a future receiving environment with the proposed Illaunbaun turbines was considered for a very small number of residential dwellings (&lt;10 No.) nearby this viewpoint where the Proposed Turbines and proposed Illaunbaun turbines may be visible in two opposing directions. Site visits determined that open visibility in both directions is mostly mitigated by the local landform characteristics enclosing most dwellings. This is an uncertain scenario which will occur for a very small number of receptors, and both developments adhere to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance from residential receptors set out for residential visual amenity in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG 2019).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br><i>(incl. mitigating factors)</i>                             | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |

1.2.11

## Viewpoint 11 - Ennistimon

| Viewpoint 11 – Ennistimon   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View south from the N67 national road in the settlement of Ennistimon.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on the Doolin Cycle Hub Loop 2, approximately 8km north of the nearest turbine (T2).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 513,122; N 688,819.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>  | ➤ LCA 3: Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ennistimon – <b>Medium</b>;</li> <li>➤ Doolin Cycle Hub Loop 2 - <b>Low</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>  | The image shows a semi-urban landscape view from an elevated position on the N67 as it enters Ennistimon from the north. The view comprises the residential streetscape of the town, where local supermarket is seen as a dominant, central feature of the image. Middle distance views look across the roofs of residential houses in Ennistimon. A small portion of a grassy field and a coniferous treeline is visible in the background of the image above the townscape of Ennistimon.   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | All turbines of the Proposed Turbines are visible but are mostly screened by the intervening landform and treelines upon the horizon. The Proposed Turbines are seen in a small extent in the distant background of the view. Only the upper blade arc of T1 will be visible. There is visual stacking between proposed turbines T2 & T6, and T1 & T7, although all Proposed Turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop, mitigating the impact of any visual confusion that may arise. The proposed met mast will be screened from view by topography. |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>   | The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible in the photowire, however buildings in the foreground screens views of these cumulative turbines. They may be visible from limited locations within Ennistimon. Overall, no cumulative visual effects are deemed to arise.   |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <p><b>Medium:</b> Includes visual receptors such as residents of Ennistimon.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located in an LCA of High sensitivity; however, this viewpoint is not representative of the landscape receptors of high value and high sensitivity which are located at a significant distance from this location. Therefore, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium.</p>  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>   |

| Viewpoint 11 – Ennistimon                            |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The built form of the Ennistimon townscape, vegetation and intervening landform significantly screens visibility of the Proposed Turbines in almost all other areas of the town.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are seen as small and suitably scaled elements in the background of the view and visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines comprises a small horizontal extent within the view and does not obstruct any landscape views from this location.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors) | <p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b><br/> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>   |

1.2.12

## Viewpoint 12 – Lahinch

| Viewpoint 12 - Lahinch                    |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View south from the R478 regional road in the townland of Ballyellery.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located along the designated CCDP Scenic Route 1, to the north of Lahinch.</li> <li>➤ 9.1 km to the north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 509,013; N 689,426.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 9/9.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 3: Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CCDP Scenic Route 1 – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Lahinch – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>          | <p>The view looks across the sandy tidal estuary of the Inagh River towards Lahinch. In the foreground, the R478 regional road crosses the Inagh river via O'Briens bridge in the left of the image. A coastal dune system is visible at middle distance views, as well as a golf course. Many residential buildings comprising Lahinch Town are visible towards the background of the view as elevation rises across an open hillside. The mountain moorland landscapes of both Slieveacurry and Slieve Callan can be seen at higher elevations in the distant background of the view.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible in the background of the view, they are seen as relatively small background elements from this location.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All of the Proposed Turbines are seen as small elements in the background of the view, over a relatively small horizontal extent. They are viewed on elevated ground, as a neat and coherent cluster on the elevated ridge. There is sufficient spacing between turbines so that no visual stacking or blade overlap occurs. Most of the Proposed Turbines are viewed above the horizon and do not obstruct any landscape views. Proposed turbines T2 and T5 are viewed in front of the Slieve Callan landform. The proposed met mast will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p>   |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be viewed in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, increasing the overall extent of wind energy developments seen within the view. The difference in location and scale of the Proposed Turbines (closer proximity) and the existing turbines (at a greater set-back distance) defines them as slightly separate entities from this perspective, where the Proposed Turbines appear larger in scale than the existing turbines.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm would be visible to the right of the Proposed Turbines. These are viewed at a similar set-back distance from this viewpoint. These cumulative turbines are also seen along the ridgeline and would be seen to extend the extent of wind farm development in the view.</p> <p>Although the 3 No. developments can be considered as separate entities due to scale and spacing characteristics, they are visually connected from this</p> |

| Viewpoint 12 - Lahinch  |   |
|---|---|
|   | perspective as one collective group of cumulative turbines within the same visual unit of the upland landscape in the background of the view.   |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its location on the designated Scenic Route 15, and within the Heritage Landscape.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1) | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, they comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All Proposed Turbines of the Proposed Project are sited in a “Strategic Area” for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Project is sited within the Sliabh Callan Uplands Landscape Character Area (LCA), an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating for wind energy development in County Clare, as set out in local planning policy. The landscape characteristics of this LCA make it highly suitable and capable of absorbing multiple large scale wind energy developments.</li> <li>➤ The scenic qualities from this area are directed along the Atlantic Coast, where the Proposed Turbines are seen sited further inland to the east, within a landscape of lower sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative effects, they are viewed collectively in the same visual unit, where the existing Slieveacurry Wind Farm is seen as slightly more setback behind the Proposed Turbines. The Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines are seen set-back effectively accommodated within the upland areas in the background of the view and do not significantly impact the integrity of the visual amenities of the coastline in and around Lahinch. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy. The Proposed Turbines are sited in a mountain moorland landscape of large scale capable of effectively accommodating multiple wind energy developments, a landscape where wind energy is well-established.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b> (incl. mitigating factors)                             | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”  |

1.2.13

## Viewpoint 13 – Clahane Viewpoint

| Viewpoint 13 - Clahane Viewpoint          |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View southeast from the Clahane Viewing Area in the townland of Cloghaundine.</li> <li>➤ The view is located at a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point, approximately 10.2 km north-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 504,441, N 687,831</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark – <b>Very High</b></li> <li>➤ LCA 3: Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scenic View – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ The Burren Way - <b>High</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View</b>      | <p>The image shows a coastal view across Liscannor Bay towards the peninsula of land stretching from Lahinch to Spanish Point. Liscannor Bay (The Atlantic Ocean) is the standout feature of this view, a large body of water extending approximately 4 km to the land seen in the background of the image. An undulating hilly landscape is seen in the background of the view with landcover comprising agricultural fields, tracts of forestry and a scattering of settlements.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is just discernible above the horizon in the distant background of the view.</p>  |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>All Proposed Turbines are viewed above the horizon and are seen as relatively small features along the ridgeline. From this location, the towers of all turbines are partially screened by the intervening landform. There is visual stacking between proposed turbines T2 and T5, and T4 and T6. The proposed met mast is not visible from this viewpoint.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>From this perspective, the Proposed Turbines are sited directly in front of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, therefore it does not increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. Although within the same visual unit of the landscape, due to differences in scale and location (Slieveacurry in closer proximity), the Proposed Turbines are seen as an independent development from the Slievecallan Wind Farm. Strategic distribution of the turbines and topographical screening of Slievecallan turbines has reduced visual stacking and mitigated potential for visual confusion as a result of cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm would be visible in front of the Proposed Turbines. These cumulative turbines are in closer proximity to this viewpoint, where they are viewed as slightly bigger elements in the view. They will cause a greater density of turbines visible in combination with the Proposed Turbines and existing Slievecallan turbines, causing greater visual complexity within this small and focussed area of the view.</p> <p>The cumulative wireline indicates that, if constructed, several turbine blades of the proposed Cahermurphy II Wind Farm are likely to be visible above</p> |

| Viewpoint 13 - Clahane Viewpoint  |   |
|---|---|
|   | the horizon to the right of this view (see 90 degree wireline), however, they are only just discernible in the proposed cumulative photomontage, Most components of these turbines will be significantly screened by the intervening landform and will be built at such a distance that any cumulative visual effects will be minor and insignificant.  |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>Very High:</b> The viewpoint has been classed as a very high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark and that receptors at this viewing area are likely to enjoy the view of Liscannor Bay.   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, they comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>Very High X Slight = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the Proposed Turbines are well set-back within the background of this wide-ranging view, where the Proposed Project does not obstruct or compromise the integrity of the scenic coastal view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the Proposed Turbines is significantly mitigated by distance; they are seen as relatively small elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ Where the view is directed towards the turbines, it is focused on a ‘Strategic Area’ in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative effects, the three groups of turbines are seen within the same focussed horizontal extent of the view. They are viewed collectively as a single array of turbines, where the existing Slieveacurry Wind Farm is seen as slightly more setback behind the Proposed Turbines. The Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines are seen set-back effectively accommodated within the upland areas. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                    | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>   |

1.2.14

## Viewpoint 14 - Lislorkan North

| Viewpoint 14 – Lislorkan North            |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View southeast from the R478 Regional Road in the townland of Lislorkan North.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located 400m from the Cliffs of Moher, part of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint located on the designated CCDP Scenic Route 1, approximately 13.6 km northwest of the nearest turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 504,437 N 692,384</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 3: Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark – <b>Very High</b></li> <li>➤ Heritage Landscape – <b>High</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visitors to Cliffs of Moher – <b>Very High</b></li> <li>➤ CCDP Scenic Route 1 - <b>High</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>     | <p>The image is a long-ranging expansive view from an elevated vantage point on the R478 regional road overlooking Liscannor Bay with Sliabh Callan Uplands forming the distant backdrop of the view. The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre car park is located in the foreground of the view, with the settlement of Liscannor visible along the Atlantic Coast.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible in the upland landscape to the left background of the image. The existing Cahermurphy Wind Farm is just discernible along the elevated ridgeline in the distance.</p> <p>The existing Boolynagleragh, Cahermurphy, Glenmore, and Kiltumper Wind Farms are theoretically visible from this viewpoint as indicated by the wireframe, however, visibility of these developments within the ‘Baseline’ image is significantly mitigated by distance (&gt;23 km).</p> |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be seen as a cluster upon the elevated ground above Liscannor Bay. From the elevated vantage point of this viewpoint the entirety of almost all proposed turbine components are visible (tower of T8 slightly screened from view). There is visual stacking between proposed turbines T1 and T6 and also between T3, T8 and T9. At this distance, the horizontal and vertical extent of the Proposed Turbines is very small in this open panoramic view. Most of the turbines are viewed against the backdrop of Slieve Callan, slightly obstructing a minor part of the landscape view.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be viewed in combination with the existing wind farms as stated previously. The Proposed Turbines will be seen in front of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm within the Sliabh Callan Uplands landscape. Therefore, the Proposed Project does not increase the horizontal extent of turbines seen within the landscape from this location but does increase the density of turbines seen within this narrow field of view. There is a very small amount of visual stacking between the developments considering they are located within the same focus of view. Due to differences in scale, the Proposed Turbines are seen as slightly larger elements than turbines of the existing Slievecallan turbines, which distinguishes them as an independent cluster although they are collectively</p>  |

| Viewpoint 14 – Lislorkan North  |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>seen as a contiguous array of turbines within this landscape designated for wind energy development, significantly mitigating the impact of cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>In an uncertain receiving environment, the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be seen to the right of the Proposed Turbines, where there is slight visual overlap. In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Cahermurphy II Wind Farm will be visible in the distant background to the right of the Proposed Turbines.</p>   |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>Very High:</b> The viewpoint has been classed as a very high sensitivity viewpoint on account of visitors to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.  |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, they comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>Very High x Slight = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The primary high-value views from this area are orientated westwards towards Branán Mór and the Cliffs of Moher. The Proposed Project is located to the southeast, in the opposing field of view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are located well inland from the Cliffs of Moher, viewed as background features and do not intrude upon the key coastal landscape sensitivities or the immediate seascape setting as perceived from the Cliffs of Moher.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Project is sited within the Sliabh Callan Uplands Landscape Character Area (LCA), an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating for wind energy development in County Clare, as set out in local planning policy. The landscape characteristics of this LCA make it highly suitable and capable of absorbing multiple large scale wind energy developments.</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of Proposed Turbines seen within this wide-ranging view is very small, the Proposed Project is a background element and does not obstruct any scenic landscape view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the Proposed Turbines is significantly mitigated by distance, they are seen as relatively small elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ Greatest visibility and visual impact occurs from the regional road and car park where Viewpoint 14 is located. In reality, there is very limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines from most of the coastal pathways alongside the Cliffs of Moher themselves, excepting from a few elevated vantage points where the Proposed Turbines are seen in the distant background in a different landscape type.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines are seen set-back effectively accommodated within the upland areas of the long ranging and expansive views. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy and do not significantly impact the key scenic sensitivities associated with the Cliffs of Moher.</li> </ul> |

| Viewpoint 14 – Lislorkan North                       |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors) | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i> |

1.2.15

## Viewpoint 15 - Lisdoonvarna

| Viewpoint 15 – Lisdoonvarna               |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View south from main street in the town of Lisdoonvarna.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the Burren Cycling Route and the Doolin Cycling Hub Route, located approximately 17.4 km north of the nearest turbine (T2).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 513,474; N 698,212.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbine visible: 9/9</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 1: The Burren Uplands – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark – <b>Very High</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lisdoonvarna – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ Doolin Cycle Hub Loops - <b>High/Medium</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>This view is focused down the R476 regional road as it exits Lisdoonvarna to the south. The foreground of the image shows pedestrian walkways lining each side of the road. The road slopes down where, delineated by residential houses and tall trees which frame a view of a rural landscape seen in the background and middle distance. The middle ground of the view is comprised of coniferous forestry and clusters of deciduous trees.</p> <p>A small number of existing Slievecallan turbines are just discernible in the distant background of the view. Visual screening from built form and vegetation means that only a very small portion of the background landscape is visible from the town of Lisdoonvarna.</p> |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>The Proposed Turbines are visible beyond the treeline in the background centre of the view. From this location proposed turbines T1, T3, T7 and T9 are predominantly visually screened by coniferous forestry upon the intervening landform. Visual stacking occurs between turbines T2 and T6, and between proposed turbines T4 and T8. At this distance the turbines are seen as very small features in the background of the view.</p>   |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Project will be viewed in combination with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm. The Proposed Turbines only minimally increase the horizontal extent of wind energy seen from this viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines are closer to this viewpoint and are of a larger size than the Slievecallan turbines.</p> <p>In an uncertain future receiving environment the proposed Illaunbaun Wind Farm will be sited in the right of the Proposed Turbines, seen in combination with the Proposed Project, although they will be predominantly screened from view by the intervening treelines.</p>  |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>                        | <p><b>High:</b> Includes visual receptors such as residents of Lisdoonvarna and visiting tourists. The high sensitivity rating takes account of this location in The Burren Uplands LCA, this viewpoint represents the open views of the Proposed Turbines from County Clare Heritage Landscape of The Burren (landscape receptor of international importance) which surrounds the town of Lisdoonvarna.</p>   |

| Viewpoint 15 – Lisdoonvarna   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Slight:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are not visible in most areas of Lisdoonvarna, where they will be screened from view by the townscape of Lisdoonvarna, mature vegetation and intervening landform.</li> <li>➤ At this distance (&gt;17 km) the Proposed Turbines are seen as small and minor features of the view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Project is viewed as a neat and organised cluster, almost all turbine components are viewed above the horizon, therefore the Proposed Project does not obstruct landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Project is sited within the Sliabh Callan Uplands Landscape Character Area (LCA), an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating for wind energy development in County Clare, as set out in local planning policy. The landscape characteristics of this LCA make it highly suitable and capable of absorbing multiple large scale wind energy developments</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>                                       | <b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>  |

1.2.16

## Viewpoint 16 – Cloghaun Beg

| Viewpoint 16 – Cloghaun Beg               |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View north from the R460 regional road in the townland of Doonsallagh East, bordering the townland of Cloghaun Beg.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is representative of local residential dwellings, and is located approximately 1.3 km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 511,092; N 677,977.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 7/9</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                | LCA 17: Sliabh Callan Uplands - <b>Low</b>  |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b> | Local Residents – <b>High</b><br>R460 regional road – <b>Medium to Low</b>  |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>     | <p>The image shows a medium-ranging view from the R460 regional road across the undulating rural landscape towards the elevated Slievecurry plateau which is seen across the horizon. Landcover in the foreground comprises fields of improved agricultural pasture bordered by hedgerows and small clusters of trees. A large tract of coniferous forestry is seen upon the high elevation in the background of the image.</p> <p>No other wind turbines are visible in the existing view.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>  | <p>7 no. proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage. Most of the turbines are significantly screened by the ridgeline, only proposed turbines T7, T8 and T6 are fully discernible in the photomontage. Proposed turbines T1 and T2 are entirely screened from view and only a half blade of proposed turbines T3, T4 and T5 are visible above the horizon. The nacelle and blades of proposed turbine T9 is viewed above the treeline, and the lower tower of proposed turbine T6 is screened by the intervening topography. Proposed turbine T7 is in closest proximity to this viewpoint (1.3km), consequently it is the largest and most visually prominent turbine in the photomontage.</p>  |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                 | <p>The Proposed Project will be viewed in succession with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm that is sited in the opposing direction of this view. These existing turbines will be similarly viewed on the elevated landform opposite the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project will increase the extent of wind energy from receptors represented by this viewpoint. There is visual separation between the two developments, whereas shown by the photomontage, no existing Slievecallan turbines are visible within the primary field of view (90° or 53.5°) towards the Proposed Turbines. The proposed Illaunbaun turbines will be sited to the north of this viewpoint (left of the Proposed Turbines in the proposed view) in an uncertain future receiving environment. However, from this viewpoint the intervening topography visually screens views of the proposed Illaunbaun turbines. There is potential for greater visibility of the proposed Illaunbaun turbines from receptors near this viewpoint that are sited at a higher elevation or sited to the west of this viewpoint.</p> |

| Viewpoint 16 – Cloghaun Beg   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Sensitivity</b>  | <b>High:</b> Due to the residential receptors in close proximity with views towards the Proposed Turbines, the overall sensitivity of this viewpoint is deemed to be high.   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i> | <b>Moderate:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a moderate horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>   | <b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the &gt;500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance set out in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019);</li> <li>➤ All Proposed Turbines of the Proposed Project are sited in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ Topography significantly mitigates visual effects as only 4 no. proposed turbines are obviously visible from this location and the surrounding area.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are seen within short ranging view of an upland landscape comprising agricultural fields and then commercial forestry plantation, they are not obstructing or intruding upon any scenic views of county, regional or national renown.</li> <li>➤ As the R460 tracks north-east (right of the photomontage) from this location it enters a valley where the steeper topography and dense roadside vegetation significantly screens the Proposed Turbines from view, substantially mitigating visual effects.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative effects, the Proposed Turbines and existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are seen set-back effectively accommodated within the upland areas, either side of the valley. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy and adhere to best practice set back distances from residential receptors.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors)                                    | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |

1.2.17

## Viewpoint 17 - Boolynamiscaun

| Viewpoint 17 – Boolynamiscaun                           |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View west from the R460 regional road in the townland of Boolynamiscaun.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is representative of local residential dwellings, and is located approximately 1.3 km southeast of the nearest turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 513,648, N 679,453.</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/9</li> </ul>   |
| <b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>                              | LCA 17: Sliabh Callan Uplands – <b>Low</b>   |
| <b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>               | Local Residents – <b>High</b><br>R460 regional road – <b>Medium to Low</b>   |
| <b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>                   | <p>The image shows a medium-ranging view from the R460 regional road across the undulating rural landscape towards the elevated Slieveacurry plateau which is seen across the horizon. Landcover comprises fields of agricultural pasture, scrub land and a dense coniferous forestry plantation. Topography rises in the middle distance where four distinct tracts of coniferous forestry ascend from the flats to a moorland landscape at higher elevations.</p> <p>No other wind turbines are visible in the Baseline image.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>                | <p>All of the Proposed Turbines are visible in the photomontage in a linear array across the horizon although at different heights relative to the ridgeline. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and the neat orderly spacing ensures there is no visual stacking from this perspective. Proposed turbines T1 and T3 are substantially screened by the ridgeline, only a half blade of proposed turbine T1 is likely to be visible above the horizon. The lower tower of proposed turbine T9 is screened from view by the forestry seen to the left of the photomontage. proposed turbine T6 is in closest proximity to this viewpoint (1.3km), consequently it is the largest and most visually prominent turbine in the photomontage.</p> |
| <b>Cumulative Effects</b>                               | <p>The Proposed Turbines will be viewed in succession with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm which is sited to the left (south and south-east) of the view. Although they are not visible in the 90° existing view image, it is noted that three turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are located within 1 km of this viewpoint. The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible in a field of view focused to the south from this location, seven turbines are visible, however visual effects are significantly mitigated by screening from intervening topography and mature treelines. These wind developments are viewed in opposite directions and it is unlikely a visual receptor will observe both developments at the same time.</p>   |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>                                      | <b>High:</b> Due to the residential receptors in close proximity with views towards the Proposed Turbines, the overall sensitivity of this viewpoint is deemed to be high.   |
| <b>Magnitude of Change</b><br><i>(See definition in</i> | <b>Moderate:</b> The Proposed Turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a moderate horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.   |

| Viewpoint 17 – Boodynamiscaun                        |  |
|--|--|
| <i>LVIA Methodology<br/>Appendix 13-1)</i>           |  |
| <b>Significance of Effect</b>                        | <b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>   |
| <b>Mitigation Factors</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the &gt;500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance set out in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019);</li> <li>➤ All Proposed Turbines of the Proposed Project are sited in a “Strategic Area” for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy, an area of the landscape envisioned for wind energy development in local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed as a coherent and well-designed array. There is no visual stacking, no blade overlap and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon; mitigating any visual confusion occurring at this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ As the R460 tracks to the south-west (left of the photomontage) from this location it enters a valley where the steeper topography and dense roadside vegetation significantly screens the turbines from view, substantially mitigating visual effects.</li> <li>➤ With respect to cumulative effects, the Proposed Turbines and existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are seen set-back effectively accommodated within the upland areas, either side of the valley. All cumulative turbines seen in areas designated as ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in local planning policy and adhere to the best practice setback distances from residential receptors.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Effect</b><br>(incl. mitigating factors) | <b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b><br><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>  |